

≡ Federal Ministry  
Republic of Austria  
Education, Science  
and Research

≡ Federal Ministry  
Republic of Austria  
Agriculture, Forestry, Regions  
and Water Management



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
ON THE COOPERATION OF UNIVERSITIES  
IN THE FIELDS OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND WATER MANAGEMENT**  
between the  
**FEDERAL MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH**  
and the  
**FEDERAL MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, REGIONS, AND WATER  
MANAGEMENT**  
**OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA on the one side**  
and the  
**MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS**  
and the  
**MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA on the other side**

The Federal Minister for Education, Science and Research and the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management of the Republic of Austria, on the one side, and the Minister of Education and Sports and the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Albania, on the other side (hereinafter referred to as “Sides”),

Acknowledging the excellent bilateral cooperation in the framework of the “Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania on Scientific and Technological Cooperation”, signed in Vienna on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2012, as well as the close cooperation in multilateral, regional and EU-programmes;

Recognising that the strong cooperation of Higher Education institutions in Austria and Albania based on mutual benefit and equality and in consideration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the United Nations is important to further deepen the relationship between Austria and Albania;

Appreciating the excellent longstanding relationships and the bilateral cooperation in the framework of the MoU between the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management of the Republic of Austria and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection of the Republic of Albania on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture signed in Wels on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010;

Acknowledging that the cooperation between Austria and Albania in the fields of agriculture, forestry and water management can be of mutual benefit to present and future generations for knowledge transfer and practical training of experts and it opens new opportunities for continued and enhanced scientific cooperation;

Appreciating the progress in the EU-accession process of Albania and supporting Albania's integration in the European Union; and

Recognising the desire of scientists and researchers to further strengthen the cooperation of Higher Education institutions in Austria and Albania;

Have reached the following understanding:

### **Paragraph 1**

The Sides appreciate the Agreement of cooperation between the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria (hereinafter referred to as "BOKU") and the Agricultural University, Tirana, Albania (hereinafter referred to as "AUT"), signed on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

The Sides acknowledge the intention of AUT to carry out a transformation process as described in the "AUT strategy 2030" in cooperation with BOKU.

### **Paragraph 2**

The Sides welcome the realization of the project "Implementation of the AUT Strategy 2030" according to the agreement that will be concluded between BOKU and AUT, where the rights and obligations of the parties, the duration of the project, the calculation of the planned budget according to the phases of the project's implementation, as well as regulations concerning the management of the project will be defined.

### **Paragraph 3**

For the Austrian side, the project financing costs for BOKU will be covered by the Ministry of Education, Science and Research, in the amount of 1,026,000 Euro. The amount will be made available within the framework of the performance agreements between Ministry and BOKU.

For the Albanian side, the project financing costs for AUT will be covered by grand funds from the State Budget within the process of internationalization of studies, in the amount of 1,950,000 Euro, in accordance with the management rules of the budget system, for a period of 4 years.

### **Paragraph 4**

This Memorandum will take effect from the date of signature and will remain effective for the duration of the project, but no longer than the end of 2030.

Any future changes to this Memorandum require the mutual agreement of the Sides in writing. Such changes will take effect from the date of signature.

**Paragraph 5**

This Memorandum can be cancelled at any time, by one of the Sides, by informing the other side in writing. The side willing to cancel this Memorandum must notify the other side in writing at least 6 (six) months in advance of its intention to cancel the cooperation and this Memorandum.

**Paragraph 6**

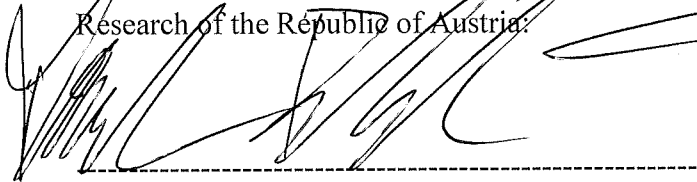
In the event of any dispute arising out of or in connection with this Memorandum, the sides will endeavor to resolve the matter amicably through mutual consultation.

**Paragraph 7**

This Memorandum will not create any legal or financial rights or obligations and will be implemented in accordance with national and international law.

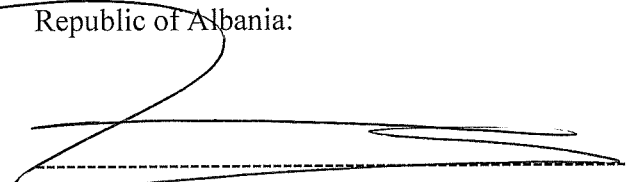
Signed in Vienna on April 15<sup>th</sup> 2024 in four originals, in the English language.

The Federal Minister for Education, Science and Research of the Republic of Austria:



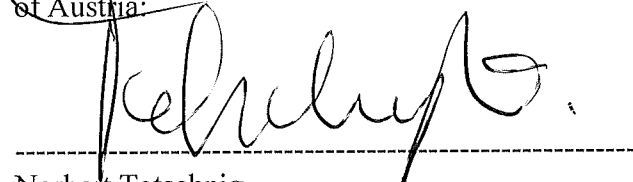
Martin Polaschek

The Minister of Education and Sports of the Republic of Albania:



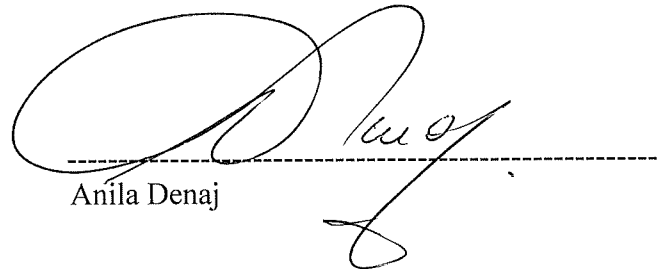
Ogerta Manastirliu

The Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management of the Republic of Austria:



Norbert Totschnig

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Albania:



Anila Denaj